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FRIDAY
JUNE 5, 1953

I went to see Averell at 9:30. He looked [redacted] well and was in a philosophical mood. He considers the McCarthy activities contemptible and causing great damage. Also that the Administration is not exercising leadership and is succumbing to many kinds of undesirable pressures. His house at 16 East 81 Street is [redacted] attractive, [redacted] and contains many of his fine 19th and 20th Century pictures.

I took a long walk down beautiful Fifth Avenue in the 90 degree temperature, stopped at the Links Club to read the latest news on the Korea armistice which looks promising, went to Dr. Joyner, and thereafter to the Union League Club, where I lunched with Buck Crawford and talked investments.

Bought a thermos bottle and some underdrawers, packed, took the bus from the 42nd Street air terminal and hopped off on the Pan American Clipper from Idlewild at about 6:30. Al Gruenther, John McCone and others I knew were aboard. We reached Gander at 10:15, refueled, and 9 hours later (8:30 a.m. New York time) descended upon Orly. Had long talk with Al, who is always constructive. Extraordinarily alert and full of the rare combination of imagination and good sense, he should be a superb Commander-in-Chief of SHAPE. Mrs. Humphrey Lee (formerly Elsie McNeill), whom I had not seen for years, was aboard. She and Laura Gross were once partners together in Mario Fortuny's New York shop. Now she, a widow, owns the whole business -- in Italy and elsewhere -- which is quite a responsibility.

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